## Claims

## What is claimed is:

- [c1] A method of creating and defining a custom data field within a process management system, comprising:

  creating a file to specify visible field properties of the custom data field;

  and

  defining a model of the custom data field.
- [c2] The method of claim 1, further comprising:
  packaging the file and the model into an archive file.
- [c3] The method of claim 1, further comprising:
  inserting the custom data field and adding the archive file into the process
  management system as a new class.
- [c4] The method of claim 1, further comprising:
  deploying the process management system with the new class.
- [c5] The method of claim 1, further comprising: testing the process management system with the new class.
- [c6] The method of claim 1, wherein the model is a written class and at least two implemented interfaces.
- [c7] The method of claim 6, wherein the class determines presentation and data management capabilities of the custom data field.

- [c8] The method of claim 1, wherein the model is an image created to depict the custom data field.
- [c9] The method of claim 1, further comprising:

  packaging the file and the model into an archive file;

  inserting the custom data field and adding the archive file into the process

  management system as a new class;

  deploying the process management system with the new class; and
  testing the process management system with the new class.
- [c10] A method of creating and defining a custom data field within a process management system, comprising:

  creating a file to specify visible field properties of the custom data field;

  defining a model of the custom data field;

  packaging the file and the model into an archive file;

  inserting the custom data field and adding the archive file into the process management system as a new class;

  deploying the process management system with the new class; and testing the process management system with the new class.
- [c11] An apparatus for creating and defining a custom data field within a process management system, comprising:
  a file specifying visible field properties;
  a model;
  an archive file created by packaging the file and the model; and
  a new class created by inserting the custom data field and adding the archive file.

- [c12] The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the model is an image created to depict the custom data field.
- [c13] The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the model is a written class and at least two implemented interfaces.
- [c14] The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the class determines presentation and data management capabilities of the custom data field.
- [c15] A computer system, comprising,
  - a storage element comprising a process management system; and
  - a processor for creating and defining a custom data field within a process management system in the storage element.
- [c16] The system of claim 15, further comprising:
  - a computer monitor adapted to display the custom data field within the process management system.
- [c17] The system of claim 15, further comprising:

  an input device adapted to enter data into the custom data field within the process management system.
- [c18] An apparatus for creating and defining a custom data field within a process management system, comprising:
  - means for creating a file to specify visible field properties of the custom data field;

means for defining a model of the custom data field;

means for packaging the file and the model into an archive file;

means for inserting the custom data field and adding the archive file into the process management system as a new class;

means for deploying the process management system with the new class; and

means for testing the process management system with the new class.

- [c19] The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the model is an image created to depict the custom data field.
- [c20] The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the model is a written class and at least two implemented interfaces.
- [c21] The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the class determines presentation and data management capabilities of the custom data field.